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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/556,949	04/21/2000	Yasuo Nomura	203722US6	6510
22850	7590	04/08/2008		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O	
			ART UNIT 2621	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 04/08/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/556,949

Applicant(s)

NOMURA ET AL.

Examiner

CHRISTOPHER ONUAKU

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/2/27/07.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C2)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1 Applicant's arguments filed 12/27/07 with respect to claims 1-7&25 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Aoki fails to teach or suggest that "said first user interface displays said recording button in a first status ***in which a button accepts a user input*** and said playback button in a second status ***in which a button does not accept a user input*** and said second user interface displays said recording button in the second status and said playback button in the first status,". Furthermore, applicant argues that Aoki discloses that the LCD panel is simply a display and does not accept a user input for operations in the mode even when each indication is illuminated. Examiner disagrees

In response, Aoki et al clearly show in the display interface of Fig.3, the "REC" and "PLAY" icons. In the different modes display of Fig.3, the "REC" icon is illuminated (claimed first status) when the recording function is initiated, at which time the "PLAY" (playback) icon is not illuminated (claimed second status); however, when a playback function is initiated, the "PLAY" icon is illuminated (claimed first status) but the "REC" (recording) icon is not illuminated (claimed second status) (see

Fig.3,7A,7B,8A,8C,8D,9A&9B; and col.8, lines 56-68 and col.10, line 50 to col.11, line 38; and claims 1,6,7&25 rejections below).

With reference to the newly added limitation in bold italicized characters, Aoki clearly discloses that when the selector switch 19 is depressed, a recording or playback display function based on the record or playback mode is effected (see col.10, line 39 to col.11, line 2), and furthermore, when the release button 20 is depressed halfway, playback of recorded information begins (see col.11, lines 29-38). The effecting of a display function when selector switch 19 is depressed, and the effecting of a playback function when the release button 20 is depressed indicates a user interface function because the user/viewer must have effected the depressing of the selector switch 19 to effect a display of "REC" or "PLAY" function and the depressing of the release button 20 to begin the playback of recorded information (see some manual functions disclosed by Aoki in col.9, lines 25-30 and col.21, line 66 to col.22, line 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7&25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki et al (US 5,111,299) in view of Small et al (US 5,898,434).

Regarding claim 1, Aoki et al disclose a still camera that is provided with at least one module changing device, a time/date device or an exposure compensating device which can be used with the still video camera that is provided with a playback device or an audio recording/playback device, comprising:

a) recording unit configured to record a first supplied picture (see Fig.2, record/playback circuit 35; col.6, line 63 to col.7, line 8; and col.8, lines 13-22);

b) reproducing unit configured to reproduce a second recorded picture (see Fig.2; record/playback circuit 35, and voice reproduction circuit 54; col.8, lines 13-38);

c) display controlling unit configured to provide display control in such a manner as to display a first user interface when the recording unit records the first picture supplied and to display a second user interface wherein the reproducing unit reproduces the second picture recorded (see col.10, line 50 to col.11, line 38), here "REC" is displayed during recording and "PLAY" is displayed during playback;

d) wherein said first user interface displays said recording button in a first status in which a button accepts user input (that is, recording function On and recording button REC is illuminated – see Fig.7A,7B,8C&8D, for example) and said playback button in a second status in which a button does not accept user input (that is, playback function not ON and playback button PLAYBACK is not illuminated – see Fig.7A,7B,8C&8D, for example) and said second user interface displays said recording button in the second status (that is, recording function not ON and recording button REC is not illuminated – see Fig.8A,9A&9B, for example) and said playback button in the first status (that is, playback function is ON and PLAYBACK button is illuminated – see Fig.8A,9A&9B, for

example) (see Fig.3; col.8, lines 56-68 and col.10, line 50 to col.11, line 38, and see col.11, lines 29-38). The effecting of a display function when selector switch 19 is depressed, and the effecting of a playback function when the release button 20 is depressed indicates a user interface function because the user/viewer must have effected the depressing of the selector switch 19 to effect a display of "REC" or "PLAY" function and the depressing of the release button 20 to begin the playback of recorded information (see some manual functions disclosed by Aoki in col.9, lines 25-30 and col.21, line 66 to col.22, line 2).

Aoki et al fail to explicitly disclose wherein the first user interface displays recording button through which to input orders for operating the recording unit and a playback button through which to input orders for operating the reproducing unit and second user interface displays a recording button through which to input orders for operating the recording unit, and a playback button through which to input orders for operating the reproducing unit.

Small et al teach software techniques for marking, decorating, and organizing data within a computer system, including a user interface system having a collection of different user interface elements, each having a unique identity and programmed functional characteristic that allows each element to be used to mark, find, organize, and process data in documents within a computer system comprising the dialog box 180 of Fig.11. For example, if the user associated the picture 182 to an instance of sound element 178, at least a portion of picture 182 would appear within sound dialog box 180 (claimed first interface). The user then use the record button 184 to activate a

recorder to record a sound for storage in memory 8 until the record time is passed. The user could then playback the recorded sound by selecting play button 186. Of course, dialog box 180 (claimed second interface) could be reactivated at anytime by selecting the instance of the sound element 178 in a different manner and repeat the recording and playback of another sound (see col.15, line 49 to col.16, line 3).

Selecting different interfaces for selected different dialog boxes provides the desirable advantage of facilitating the playing/recording, for example, of the different sounds, thereby facilitating the multi-recording/playing of different sounds, using different interface modes.

It would have been obvious to modify Aoki by realizing Aoki with the means to select different interfaces for selected different sounds since this provides the desirable advantage of facilitating the playing/recording, for example, of the different sounds, thereby facilitating the multi-recording/playing of different sound, using different interface modes.

Regarding claim 2, Aoki discloses wherein the recording means records simultaneously at least one picture making up the first picture (see col.10, line 61 to col.11, line 2), here the word "REC" is displayed to indicate that the recordingg process is going on at the instant

Regarding claim 3, Aoki discloses wherein the reproducing means reproduces simultaneously at least one picture making up the second picture (see col.10, line 61 to

col.11, line 38), here the word "PLAY" is displayed to indicate that the reproducing process is going on at the instant

Regarding claim 4, Aoki discloses wherein the display controlling means provides display control in such a manner that the first and the second user interface appear in substantially the same position (see col.10, lines 50 to col.11, line 2), here Aoki discloses that the camera has a record mode during which "REC" icon is displayed and a monitor mode during which "MONITOR" icon is displayed, and in the monitor mode the image being recorded can be simultaneously monitored.

Regarding claim 5, Aoki discloses wherein the display controlling means displays the first user interface in such a manner as to place a first and second display thereof into a first and a second state respectively, the first display in the first state accepting an input of orders via a recording button for operating the recording means, the second display in the second state accepting an input of orders via a playback button for operating the reproducing means, the display controlling means further displaying the second user interface in such a manner as to place the first and second display thereof into the second and the first state respectively, the first display in the second state accepting an input of orders via a recording button for operating the recording means, the second display in the first state accepting an input of orders via a playback button for operating the reproducing means (see claims 2&3 discussions above), here

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examiner reads the first state as the recording state and the second state as the reproducing state.

Regarding claim 6, the claimed limitations of claim 6 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 7, the claimed limitations of claim 7 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 25, the claimed limitations of claim 25 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

4. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is 571-272-7379. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

COO
3/19/08

/John W. Miller/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623